

Name:

Background of Macbeth

Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth* for James I, England's new king, who had been king of Scotland. The occasion was a visit from the king of Denmark to his sister, James's wife. To please James, Shakespeare set the play in Scotland, used many characters that were James' ancestors, and included witches, a subject that James had written about. The play is Shakespeare's shortest tragedy probably because James I often fell asleep during performances.

The Renaissance Theater (Pages 244-246) See book or attached packet.

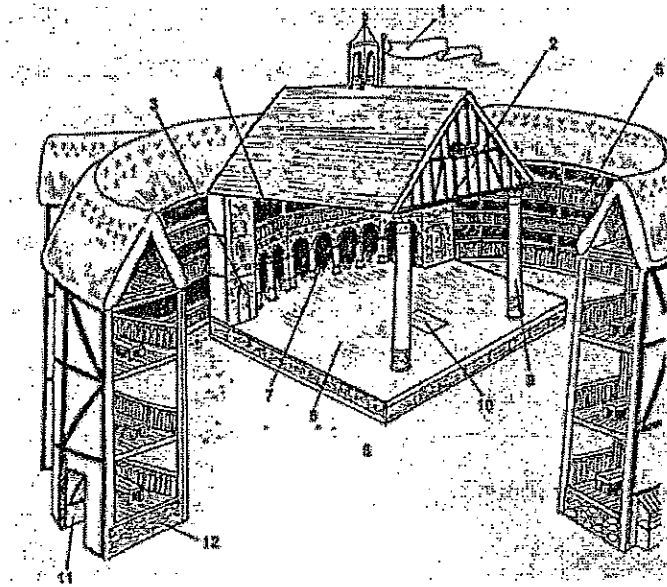
1. How was scenery incorporated into the plays?

2. Why were act and scene divisions added later?

3. Describe the props and special effect.

4. Other than public theaters like the Globe, where were plays performed (2 locations)?

The Globe Theater



Directions: Please match the descriptions to the theater part.

- _____ 1. Flag
- _____ 2. The "Heavens"
- _____ 3. Tiring House
- _____ 4. Upper Stage
- _____ 5. Galleries
- _____ 6. Main Stage
- _____ 7. Inner Stage
- _____ 8. Open Yard
- _____ 9. Support Pillars
- _____ 10. Trap Door
- _____ 11. Entrance
- _____ 12. Brick Foundation

A. dressing and storage rooms. Actors rested here between scenes and changed into lavish costumes. All large props were stored here. The doors to this place also served as actors' main entrances and exits.

B. three covered seating sections. Audiences paid more to sit on these tiered wooden benches under a thatched roof to keep out the sun and rain. For an additional penny, a patron could borrow a cushion to sit on.

C. this stage was used mostly for indoor scenes. It had a curtain that could be opened or closed for scene change.

D. signified which type of play was being performed - black for tragedy, white for comedy, and red for history. This piece of the Globe Theater was flown high enough so most of London could see it waving from the top of the Globe.

E. this "chamber" was used for most bedroom and balcony scenes.

F. these wooden pillars supported the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used these pillars to hide on the main stage and observe other characters while speaking in "asides" to the audience.

G. audiences paid one penny to stand here and watch the performance rain or shine. Often these patrons, or groundlings, would participate in the play by cheering, shouting or throwing snacks at the actors.

H. the Globe's foundation needed to be constructed of brick, as it was built on wet, marshy land close to the Thames River.

I. actors playing ghosts or witches could rise or descend through this door built into the main stage. The cellarage underneath was referred to as "hell".

J. "gatherers" stood at the single entrance to collect one penny from each patron per performance. Patrons put their pennies into a box, hence the term "box office" It took audiences at least half an hour to file into the theater.

K. where the main action of the play took place, especially outdoor scenes of battlefields, forests, or cityscapes. It was often called an "apron" stage because audiences could sit around all three sides. The stage was intentionally built four to five feet high so the audience could not jump up and into the action. For a larger fee, patrons could sometimes sit up on the stage next to the actors.

L. ceiling over the stage that protected the actors from too much sun or rain. It also represented the sky and heavens and was painted blue with golden stars. Actors who played angels or spirits descended from the hut on top of this "roof" to the main stage. The hut was also used for storage and additional sound effects such as alarm bells, cannon fire, and thunder.

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TOP 10 GLOBE THEATRE FACTS

Source: <http://www.globe-theatre.org.uk/globe-theatre-facts.htm>

- Trivia Fact 1 - The Globe was built in a similar style to the Coliseum, but on a smaller scale - other Elizabethan Theatres followed this style of architecture which were called amphitheatres.
- Trivia Fact 2 - The Globe Theatre was built in with the materials and timber 'stolen' from the first 'Theatre' in 1599 when William Shakespeare and the Chamberlain's men were forced to leave because the Puritan owner, Giles Allen, refused to re-new the lease. It only took six months to build!
- Trivia Fact 3 - Theatrical Performances proved to be so popular that in 1591 the growing popularity of theatres led to a law closing all theatres were closed on Thursdays so that the bull and bear baiting industries would not be neglected.
- Trivia Fact 4 - The Globe theatre was also used for gambling and for immoral purposes.
- Trivia Fact 5 - Outbreaks of the Bubonic Plague were so serious that the Globe Theatre was forced to close. The outbreaks and closures occurred in 1593, 1603 and 1608. In 1563, in London alone, over 20,000 people died of the deadly Bubonic Plague.
- Trivia Fact 6 - William Shakespeare and his company built TWO Globe Theatres - on 29 June 1613 there was a fire at the original Globe and the theatre burnt to the ground within two hours. A new Globe was quickly re-built in 1614 .
- Trivia Fact 7 - The motto of the Globe theatre was "Totus mundus agit histrionem" (the whole world is a playhouse). The phrase was slightly re-worded in the William Shakespeare play As You Like It - "All the world's a stage" which was performed at the Globe Theatre.
- Trivia Fact 8 - No women were allowed to work as actors - female roles were taken by young lads who wore women's clothes and elaborate make-up. The lead content in the white make-up led to many early deaths of the boy actors.
- Trivia Fact 9 - Different colored flags were used to advertise the themes of plays which were to be performed at the Globe Theatre. A black flag indicated a tragedy, a white flag indicated a comedy and a red flag indicated a History.
- Trivia Fact 10 - The Globe Theatre was demolished by the Puritans. On 15th April 1644 landowner Sir Matthew Brend demolished the playhouse and built tenement houses on the site.

5. Why were these theaters dangerous (2 reasons)? _____

6. How were female characters portrayed? _____

7. Macbeth is a tragedy. What color flag would be flown? _____

8. What is the Globe's structure similar too? _____

9. How many "Globe" Theaters were there? _____

10. Who demolished the theater (the group)? _____

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Literary Elements

Directions: Use "A Handbook of Literary Terms" to define the terms below. The handbook is located in the very back of the *Elements of Literature* book and begins on page 1259. The tab is a dark blue/purple color.

1. Aside

2. Foil

3. Paradox

4. Tragedy
